

ICHLA Health Committee Meeting Minutes 5-25-06

Indiana State Department of Health 2:00pm

Committee Members:

Carmen Quintana, IDOH Commissioner (Committee Chair)
Carolyn Requiz, IDOH-Office of Minority Health (Committee Vice-Chair)
Amelia Muñoz, Indiana Latino Institute
Javier Sevilla Mártir, M.D.
Morella Dominguez, Indiana Minority Health Coalition

Staff:

Amy Mendoza, ICHLA Executive Director
Ryan Marques, ICHLA Staff
Laura Barrett, ICHLA Staff

I. Introductions

Carolyn Requiz thanked the Committee members for their attendance and asked for everyone to give a brief introduction.

II. Explanation of Health Committee & Member Responsibilities

Director Mendoza reviewed over the committee's responsibilities from the 2006-2008 Commission Strategic Plan: Progress report due at September 2006 Commission meeting and the Legislative Report for review by the ICHLA due during the October Commission meeting.

Director Mendoza reminded all committee members that the Health Committee must meet at least 3-4 times in 2006.

III. Review of Action Steps & Input

Carolyn Requiz asked all members to review over the Health Committee Initiatives 2006 (green sheet). She explained the goal of the committee and asked for any questions pertaining to the 7 Action Steps listed under the Health Committee's 2006 initiatives.

Javier Sevilla asked about the committee's partnering organizations.

Carolyn Requiz explained how the committee plans to partner with FSSA, IDOH and other health service agencies.

Director Mendoza asked that the committee look to other national institutes for more updated health statistics. She requested that the Health Committee research national areas of interest.

Carolyn Requiz also acknowledged the importance of conducting local health research.

Javier Sevilla acknowledged that the Regenstrief Institute at IUMS keeps track of patients' visits through their electronic medical record system. He strongly recommended that the committee seek partnership with this institute; he asked that the committee concentrate on the main partners. The institute would provide data specific to the Indiana Hispanic/Latino community.

Morella Dominguez assured the committee members that a health assessment study can be completed for only Latino minorities. She offered to share statistics provided by the Minority Health Coalition.

Director Mendoza asked for any questions pertaining to the action steps outlined in the Commission's Strategic Plan. She acknowledged that there are many statewide efforts geared towards preventative healthcare (action step #2) and would like the committee to gain more awareness, as the Commission must not repeat efforts already established. She discussed how Hispanic/Latino senior issues have remained "untouched." Director Mendoza recommended that the Health Committee include a report on health issues involving senior citizens.

Amelia Muñoz asked that the committee focus on the single Latino male ages 18-24 in regards to tobacco control prevention. Nationally, 73% of men smoke and 23% of women smoke.

Morella Dominguez requested the committee's attention to the youth population.

Carolyn Requiz acknowledged the first step of the Health Committee as data collection; then the committee can focus on action steps

Amelia Muñoz said that the Indiana Latino Institute (ILI) has implemented a pilot program in order to address the single Latino male tobacco problem. The program is funded through the American Legacy Foundation. ILI has contracted with Luther Consulting to evaluate the project.

Director Mendoza reminded the committee about their obligations to send recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. She would like for the Health Committee to convene again later in the year to discuss solutions and model programs.

Javier Sevilla said that the communities overall are in need of health education "from scratch." These communities need more education regarding health insurance and

better health practices. Many Hispanic/Latino individuals might not be aware of health insurance benefits. Those health providers must be educated as well about the cultural differences.

Amelia Muñoz explained how Hispanic/Latino health appears to decline once they come to the U.S. She questioned the cause of this health impact.

Javier Sevilla explained this decline in health as the “Immigrant Paradox.” This includes Latin American immigrants who have resided in the U.S. from 6-8 months; they begin to experience health problems where before in their home country personal health was not an issue. He was concerned with bridging the gap between the expectations of Latin American doctors and those of the United States.

Amelia Muñoz explained how the U.S. healthcare system is a “totally different system.” She discussed the Hispanic/Latino expectations of “having a child” and how most are not accustomed to the ability of receiving injections for pain. Amelia Muñoz said, “They aren’t getting what they need.”

Javier Sevilla asked if the Health Committee plans to create something for the community in regards to health.

Amelia Muñoz urged the committee to define what the current issues are and then focus on making recommendations.

Director Mendoza said, “The committee must promote what is already there.” She discussed action step #4 (Utilize the Hispanic/Latino media to disseminate information) and how the committee must help increase Commission exposure to the community. She requested that committee members bring media contacts to the next meeting. Director Mendoza discussed action step #5 and how the committee can continue to report on policies/programs through committee input, office research and providing information to other Indiana communities and states.

Javier Sevilla informed the committee that the SOSA group is implementing a bi-monthly magazine solely dedicated to the Hispanic/Latino community regarding health; this magazine will be free to the public. He would like the committee to study what is presently occurring in the Hispanic/Latino community: best practices, problems and solutions/recommendations. Javier Sevilla felt that it would be in the committee’s best interest to have an endorsement from the community.

Morella Dominguez also mentioned a magazine created by the Indiana Minority Health Coalition; they publish a new edition 3 times/year.

Director Mendoza asked how the SOSA magazine would be distributed.

Javier Sevilla explained that the SOSA group is currently looking for magazine sponsors.

Director Mendoza continued the discussion with action step #6 from the Strategic Plan; Track any proposed legislation that might affect Indiana Hispanics/Latinos.

Amelia Muñoz provided and discussed a resolution proposal called “Global Resolution to End Alcohol Promotion in World Cup Events.” She said, “It is a key issue in the community.” She asked that committee members forward it along. Amelia Muñoz encouraged committee members to view [ILI](#) website for contact information/resources.

Director Mendoza discussed action step #7; Encourage bilingual individuals to apply for positions in the healthcare field. She asked members for ways that the committee might support this action step.

Carolyn Requiz described the actions taken by the office of Minority Health. She said, “We are trying to engage Latinos in health fields.” They are currently working in Cass County and have partnered with various agencies that will encourage more doctors to come to Indiana and receive a license. Carolyn Requiz mentioned a Puerto Rican Director from Elkhart County who commented on the difficulty of motivating individuals. Carolyn Requiz recognized the main barriers: lack of money and documentation.

Amelia Muñoz discussed promoting an education initiative (working with Ivy Tech and La Plaza). [The ILI scholarship program for Latino students documented, or not and are planning on going on to higher education is called “Tu Futuro” and is directed at students going to Ivy Tech community College. This can be a stepping stone for individuals going into the medical field.](#)

Javier Sevilla would like the committee to inform the communities about what initiatives are already in place; he suggested developing a new initiative stemmed from the current efforts.

Amelia Muñoz commented on an educational scholarship from the Mexican Consulate. This scholarship guarantees 10 students \$2,000/yr for four years.

Javier Sevilla mentioned the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and how they reserve funds for medical students. AHEC tracks Latino students who desire to study medicine. They identify these students from the time they begin and then follow-up with the educational results through a database; this ensures that they succeed.

Javier Sevilla spoke about a “doctor’s back to school program.” sponsored by the “Society of Latinos.”

Javier Sevilla explained the META project and how it is the most outstanding initiative. META hosts a yearly (during the fall) statewide Latino Career Fair @IUPUI where professionals from many fields are invited to attend. He would like

to see the Commission present at the IUPUI Career Fair that is solely dedicated to Latinos.

Director Mendoza acknowledged the Commission's support in attending the IUPUI Career Fair.

Director Mendoza informed the committee that the Lt. Governor asked the Commission for their opinion about the top three issues affecting Hispanics/Latinos in Indiana. Director Mendoza told her that there was a strong need for medical interpreters.

Javier Sevilla asked that the committee research the reason behind the 2-year waiting process for immigrant doctors to receive their medical licenses in Indiana, while Indiana residents (Americans) must only wait one year in order to receive their medical licenses. Javier Sevilla explained that there are many states that do not discriminate.

Amelia Muñoz agreed that medical licenses should be re-examined.

Director Mendoza how the Commission has funding set aside for research and for committee members to attend conferences. She plans to email all committee members the funding allocation.

Amelia Muñoz recommended the Pacific Institute for Research Evaluation, as they have a strong background in Latino research; they host a national prevention conference.

IV. Next Steps / Assessments

Carolyn Requiz informed the committee members that they will be assigned health activities based on their expertise. She asked all members to complete the blue 2006 Committee Assessment Sheet.

Amelia Muñoz reminded committee members to send their support for resolution before the June 6, 2006 deadline. She asked that the committee help tackle international issues regarding alcohol abuse through the help of the National Latino Alcohol Commission.

Director Mendoza assured the committee members that she would email everyone copies of the minutes and asked members to bring their research to the next meeting. She will also provide a Health Committee contact list.

Director Mendoza asked that committee members send their contact information via email to Director Mendoza or to Committee Vice-Chair Carolyn Requiz.

Javier Sevilla asked about action step #2 and how it could be materialized.

Director Mendoza explained that committee members must bring back information after identifying it. They must also promote new initiatives, as the committee is in the information gathering phase. Director Mendoza suggested that the committee prioritize 3 main issues at the next meeting.

Javier Sevilla was recently approached about the Medicare issue. He asked if there were enough qualifying candidates. Javier Sevilla recommended an objective of counting those that do qualify.

Amelia Muñoz expressed her concern with emergency services and the lack of Medicaid for undocumented immigrants.

Morella Dominguez assured the committee that the legislation pertaining to emergency services has not been passed.

Amelia Muñoz suggested that the committee monitor the current legislation.

Carolin Requiz announced that many agencies and partnerships are showing their support.

Javier Sevilla mentioned the “motivation interview” and how it was most successful.

Director Mendoza informed the committee members about the many Commission meetings held with state agency directors. Many state agencies have important data on Hispanic/Latinos that can be utilized by the Commission; they are willing to partner.

Amelia Muñoz spoke about an organization called PATA and how they target 18-24 year olds; they are funded by “Legacy.”

V. Adjournment

Carolin Requiz adjourned the Health Committee meeting at approximately 2:55pm.